

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

RSC-01 SIL-01 OPR-02 SY-10 PC-10 CU-04 DOTE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 HEW-08 DRC-01 /137 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2073

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0576

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BL

SUBJ: GOB MAINTAINS CONTROL AS TENSIONS PERSIST

REF: LA PAZ 562

1. COMPESINOS CONTINUED TO BLOCK THE ROAD FROM COCHABAMBA TO SANTA CRUZ OVER THE WEEKEND AND DESPITE HEAVY RAINS WERE STILL THERE ON JANUARY 28. MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT NEAR THE AREA, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN EMPLOYED AGAINST THE CAMPESINOS. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO TALK THEM INTO RIVIAISING THE ROADBLOCKS

2. ON JANUARY 26 THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED THAT THREE SUBVERSIVE PLOTS HAD BEEN UNCOVERED AND THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO MAINTAIN ORDER. THE MINISTRY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT 47 PERSONS HAD BEEN DETAINED DURING THE WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH PLOTS OR GENERAL DISORDERS IN THE WAKE OF THE LATEST ECONOMIC MEASURES. THE NAMES OF THOSE IN CUSTODY HAVE
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NOT BEEN RELEASED, BUT AMONG THOSE KNOWN TO BE HELD ARE

DR. BENJAMIN MIGUEL, PRESIDENT OF THE PDC, ARTURO VON VACANO, A JOURNALIST, AND SIXTO HERRERA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RAILROAD WORKERS FEDERATION.

3. OVER THE WEEKEND THE GOB REPORTEDLY LAUNCHED ANOTHER WAVE OF ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH A POTENTIAL COUP ATTEMPT. DETAILS OF THESE ARRESTS WILL BE REPORTED THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY MOVEMENTS RELATING TO CURRENT

TENSIONS THE DATT REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST DIVISION COMMANDER B/GEN LIBERA, WHO HAS STAYED ON AS

COMMANDER BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION RATHER THAN CEDING THE POST TO B/GEN LIJERON, TOLD ARMA ON 28 JANUARY THAT HIS DIVISION CONTINUES ON PARTIAL ALERT. ONLY DISPLACEMENTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN ONE COMPANY OF THE 1ST TARAPACA REGIMENT TO COCHABAMBA AND THE PROVISIONAL MOVEMENT TO LA PAZ OF ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH LANZA REGIMENT IN GUAQUI. THE TARAPACA COMPANY, COMPOSING FIVE ROLAND SWISS ARMORED VEHICLES, IS CURRENTLY LOCATED WITH THE 7TH DIVISION IN COCHABAMBA AND IS MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE. IT HAS NOT MOVED OUT TO ANY OF THE BELEAGUERED AREAS BRACKETED BY CAMPESINOS, AND THE HOPE IS THAT SUCH CONFRONTATION WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.

5. COMMENT: WITH LABOR QUIET FOR THE MOMENT AND WITH THE GOB ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE RATHER THAN FORCE THE CAMPESINOS OFF THE COCHABAMBA-SANTA CRUZ ROAD THERE IS A SURFACE CALM IN THE NATION. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REMAINS VERY ACTIVE AGAINST PLOTTERS AND PROTESTERS, THE GOB RETAINS CONTROL ALTHOUGH ITS PROBLEMS ARE NOT OVER BY ANY MEANS.
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